

Region 3 Fire Danger Outlook

11/18/2016, 1600

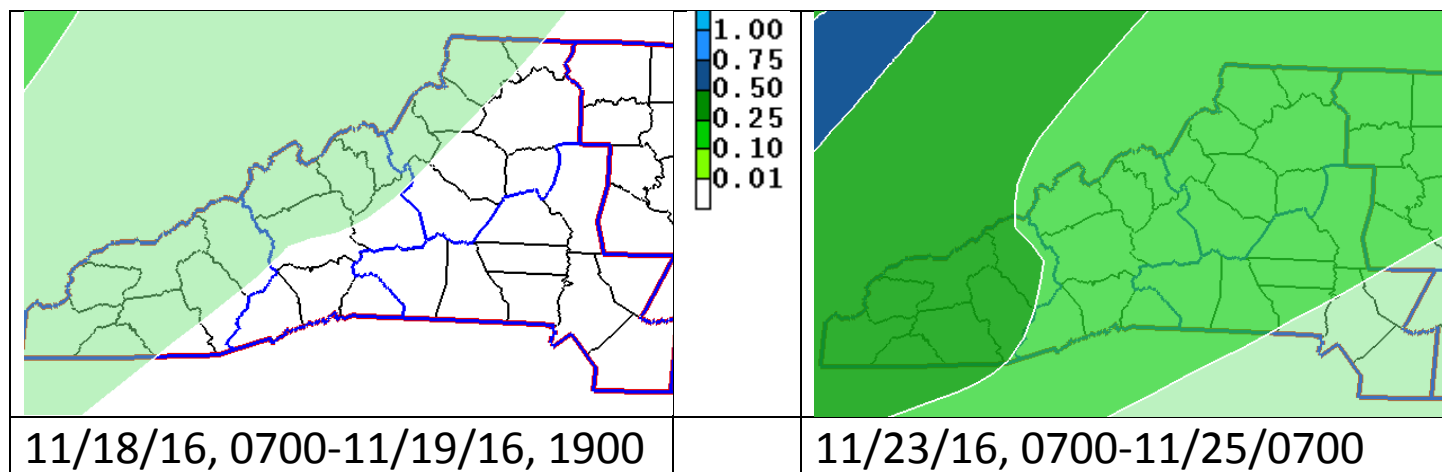
Cabe Speary, Fire Environment Forester, 252-325-3089

Weather Outlook

Increased Fire Danger on Saturday and Sunday. Minimum RH to drop to critical levels on Sunday and Monday.

- Warm and dry high pressure will continue to expand over the region through today. A strong cold front will move across the state. From the west early on Saturday bringing only isolated rain chances. Winds will increase dramatically. Temperatures in the wake of the front will drop to approximately ten to fifteen degrees below normal for Sunday and Monday before moderating through midweek. Another cold front will approach the area just before thanksgiving day. From November 26-Dec. 2nd, there is a 30-40% chance of **above** precipitation.
- Low RH's are forecast to be in the 35-45% range tomorrow, decreasing to 15-25% on Sunday through Monday. They will moderate somewhat to 40-50% on Tuesday through Thursday as the next front approaches the area. RH recovery is expected to be good tonight, especially below 3,000 feet elevation. **However, recovery will be poor for Saturday night and Sunday night, only getting to the 50-60% level, with many areas only seeing 30%. Nighttime inversions can worsen this at the mid slope.**
- **Starting tomorrow in mid-morning, they will increase and switch to the NW at 15-25 MPH with gusts up to 40 or even higher in some locations.** High winds will continue into Saturday night and Sunday, with 15-20 MPH still out of the NW. By Monday, they should slacken to 5-10 MPH and continue at that speed through the period. Tomorrow, mixing heights will be 4-6,000 feet range with transport winds of 20-30 MPH. On Sunday, mixing will drop to 3-4,000 feet with transport winds of 12-20 MPH.
- Temperatures tomorrow will start in the 50s and drop through the day. A hard freeze will occur over the entire region Saturday night and Sunday night. On Sunday, highs will only reach the upper 30-upper 40s. Temperatures will moderate through the rest of the week with highs in the 50s and lows in the upper 20s-30s. From November 19-24, there is a 30-40% chance of **above** normal temperatures.
- **With the combination of strong upslope winds and low RH, expect rhododendron/laurel slicks to torch if not become full on crown fires.**

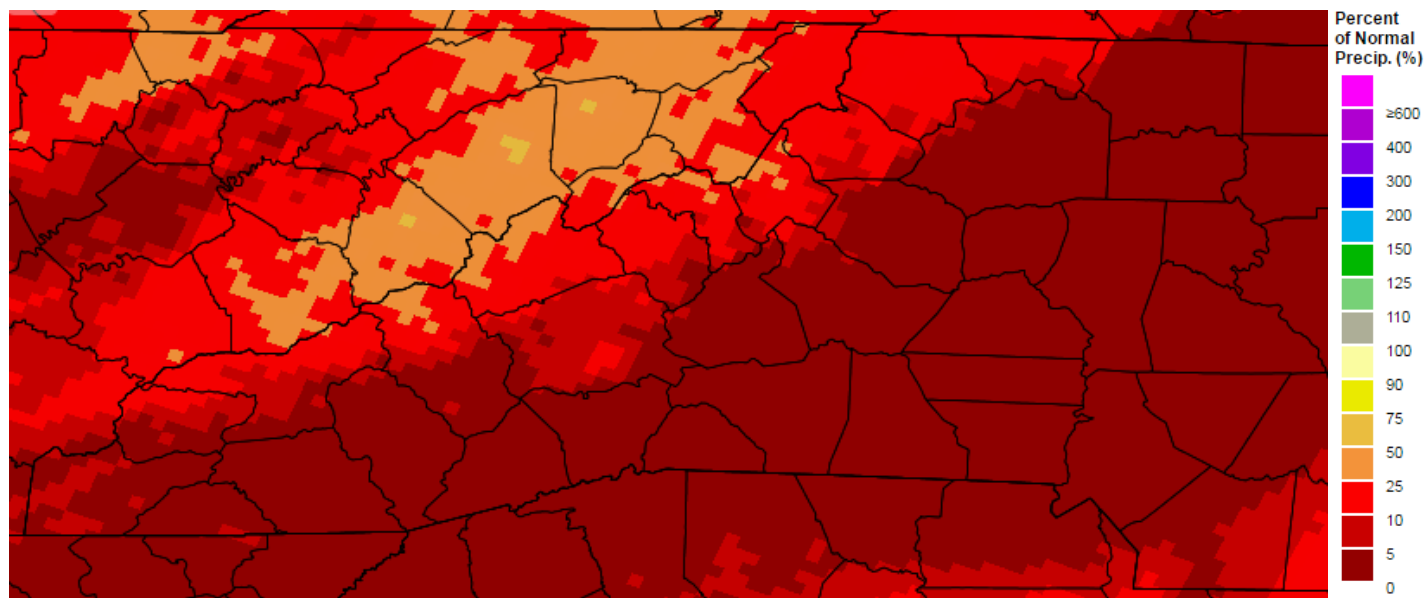
PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK, 11/13/16, 0800 to 11/14/16, 0800



This is an ensemble of models showing less than .1" of precipitation for tonight and tomorrow. Chances if any rain are less than 30%.

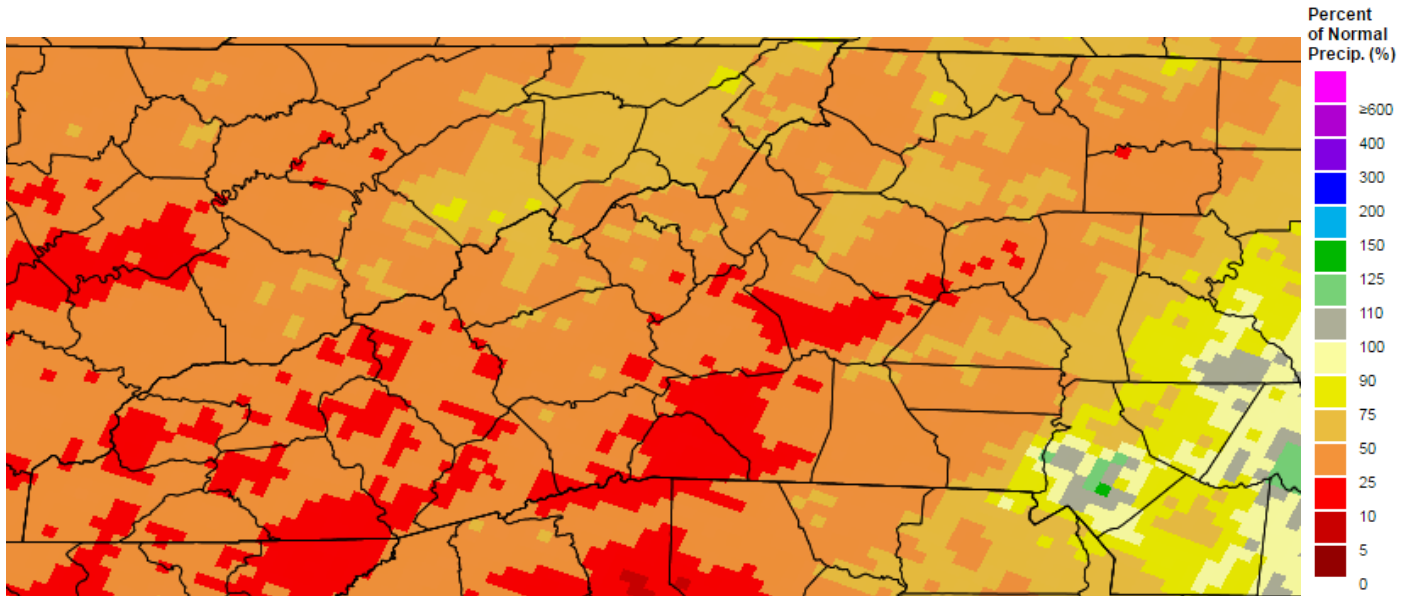
The next chance of wetting rain will be Wednesday-Thursday with the passage of a cold front. At this point, the models are only predicting up to ½". As we have seen over the past several weeks, the models are often not very accurate this far out, and have often under predicted rainfall amounts and coverage.

30 Day Precipitation Departure (shown as percent of normal)



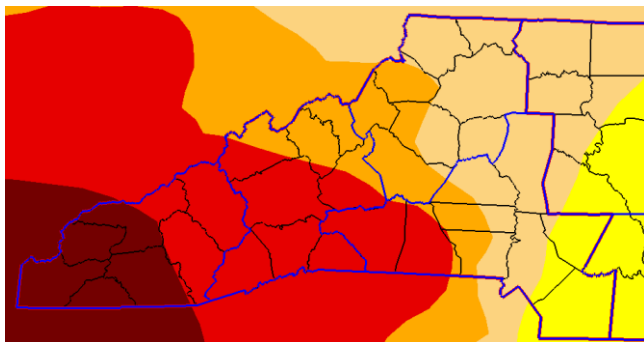
4/5s of the region have had under 5% of their monthly rainfall. The entire region is under 25%.

90 Day Precipitation Departure (shown as percent of normal)

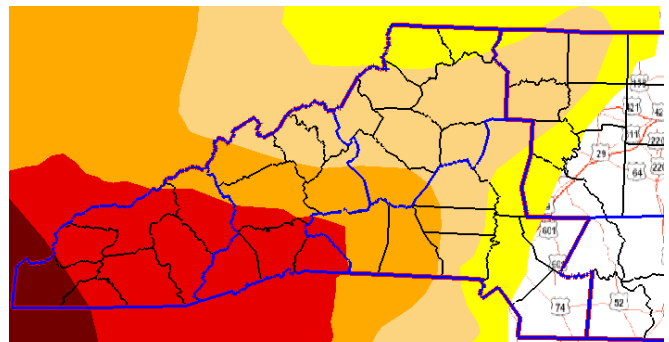


Longer term continues to worsen, with almost the whole region under 50% of normal since mid-August. Only small bits of Mecklenburg in the normal range.

Drought Monitor



November 8th-Current



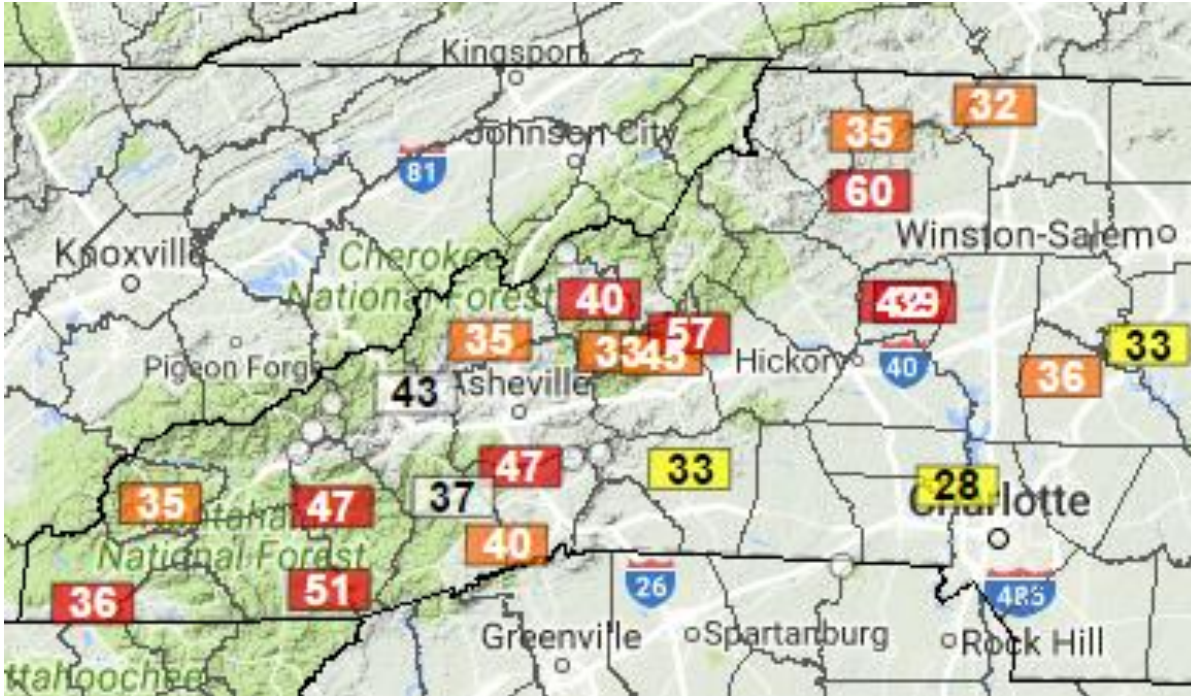
November 1-Last week

Intensity:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| D0 (Abnormally Dry) | D2 (Severe Drought) | D4 (Exceptional Drought) |
| D1 (Moderate Drought) | D3 (Extreme Drought) | |

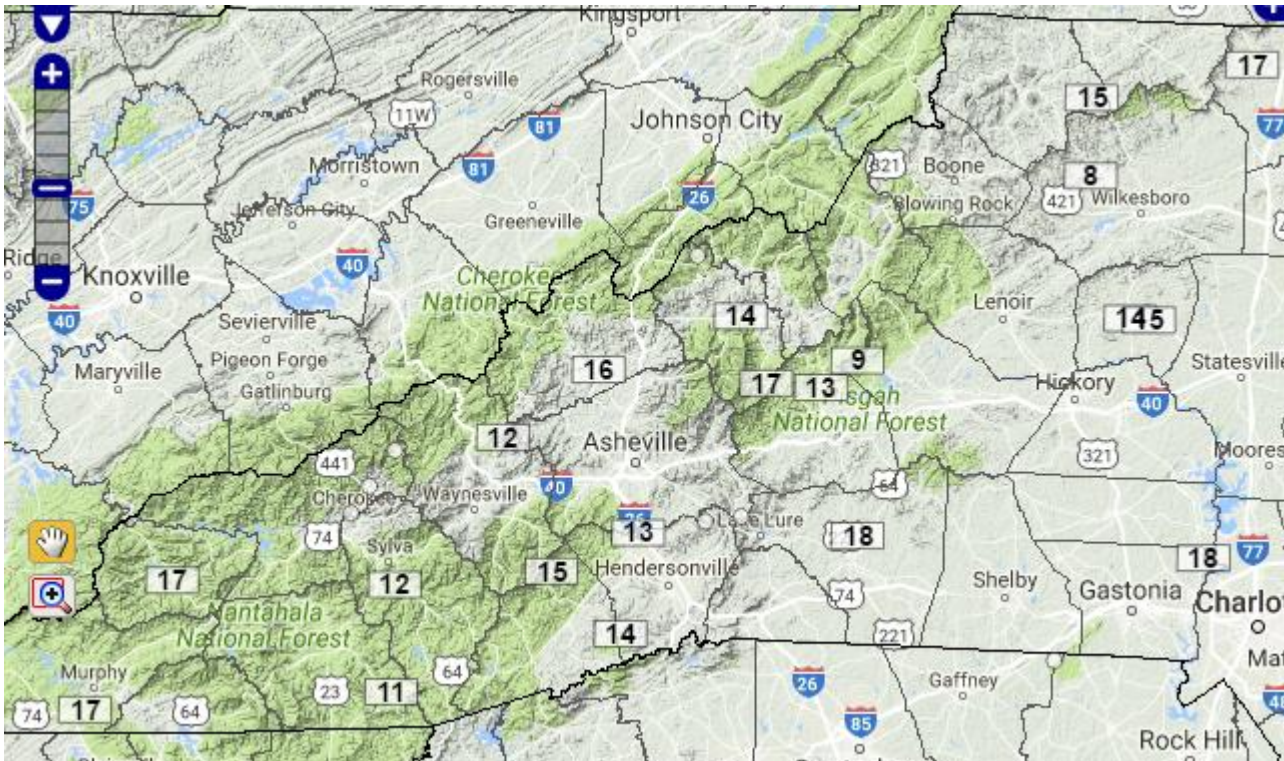
Drought has expanded to cover all areas of the region, except Union which is now considered D0-Abnormally Dry..

ERC, 11/18/16, 1300



No news here. They are all above the 98.5% range for the season. ERCs across the region are predicted to increase from Sunday through Tuesday with dropping humidity.

100 HR FM, 11/18/16, 1300



Some stations are at unprecedented lows. All stations indicate these fuels will be completely consumed.

